

MATTHEW 24  
Taught by Willis E. Bishop  
(From Study in Revelation)

Matthew 24:1: And Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came to Him to show Him the buildings of the temple [beautiful buildings]. And Jesus said unto them, "See ye not all these things? Verily, I said unto you, there shall not be left one stone upon another that shall not be thrown down."

And that was true -- by 70 A.D. the Romans tore the whole thing down. What is over there is not the temple nor any ruins of it. The retaining wall contains some of the original stones but none of the temple is there.

Verse 3: And as Jesus sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately saying, "Tell us when shall these things be, what shall be the sign of Thy coming and of the end of the age?"

Three questions, and Christ answers them. We need Matthew chapter 24 and Luke chapter 21 together to get the full answer. We'll not do that tonight.

Matthew 24:4: Jesus answered and said unto them, "Take heed that no man deceive you, for many shall come in My name saying, 'I am Christ' and shall deceive many, and ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that ye be not troubled, for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom [the red horse in Revelation]. There shall be famines and pestilences and earthquakes in various places. All these things are the beginnings of sorrows. [That's where the Tribulation period begins.]

Verse 15: "When you see the abomination of desolations spoken of my Daniel the prophet ...."

That is in the middle of the Tribulation period. We won't take time to go back to the book of Daniel to show how that works. Christ is talking about things that will happen during the Tribulation period.

Matthew 24:9: "Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, shall kill you, you shall be hated of all nations for My me's sake, and then shall many be offended and shall betray one another and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall arise and deceive many, and because iniquity [or lawlessness] shall abound the love of many shall grow cold. But he that endureth unto the end [of the Tribulation period] shall be saved" [physically to enter the Millennial period].

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Verse 14: "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end [of the Tribulation period] come."

What we have here is that the Church is supposed to be the witness at the present time but then is taken away. The Lord seals a hundred and forty-four thousand, which are his witnesses during the Tribulation period and they cannot be touched. During that seven-year period that hundred and forty-four thousand preach the gospel of the kingdom to the ends of the Earth. Many will believe and it will cost most of them their lives.

When John [in Revelation] is given this momentary glimpse, he sees that multitude which no man can number out of every nation, tongue and tribe that have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb, are before the throne and in a tremendous chorus are praising God.

Q. These hundred and forty-four thousand are circulating around the world?

A. That's right. In Israel today there are people from a hundred nations or more. They learn the Hebrew language but they do keep their own languages, they meet in their own synagogues and have many of their own customs. They are people who know the languages of the world and all God has to do is save them and send them out.

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